

strength. Despite the daily challenges she faces living with MS, Lisa still sets goals for herself and hopes to complete a half marathon one day.

Mr. Speaker, Lisa Sims inspires Northeast Georgians to approach difficult times with relentless energy. I share Lisa's optimism for the future and look forward to hearing that she has conquered that half marathon.

FLAG DAY

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 14, 2018

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today, we honor the most recognizable symbol of our democracy: the United States flag. On June 14, 1777, the Continental Congress officially established a flag for the fledgling nation, decreeing "that the flag of the United States be thirteen stripes, alternate red and white; that the union be thirteen stars, white in a blue field, representing a new constellation."

Throughout our nation's history, "Old Glory" has been an ever-present emblem of America. It billowed in the wind outside of Independence Hall as the Founding Fathers drafted the Constitution. It inspired the young poet Francis Scott Key in Baltimore Harbor in 1814, who penned the words of our national anthem after watching Fort McHenry withstand a British siege. It traveled west with the Lewis and Clark expedition and eventually with the pioneers as America expanded from sea to shining sea. It was raised high above Mount Suribachi by the Marines on Iwo Jima during World War II. It has flown at the North Pole, at the summit of Mount Everest, and on the moon.

Both in good times and in bad, the Star Spangled Banner has always yet waved for

the American people. Olympic champions held the flag above their heads in triumph, and first-responders have comforted victims of tragedies in its shadow. Our students pledge their allegiance to it each morning, and soldiers and peace officers salute it as they lay their fallen comrades to rest. It continues to remind us of our past, present, and future, flying permanently over the village green of Lexington, Massachusetts, the White House, and all United States customs ports of entry.

Above all, the flag is an embodiment of our identity. Today, the fifty stars in the sea of blue are a visual reminder of our national motto: *e pluribus unum*. Out of many states came one united nation, and fifty stars, thirteen stripes, and a sea of blue together form a vital component of our one national flag.

Mr. Speaker, all Americans should cherish and respect the flag. Old Glory honors the sacrifice of American men and women who died for the country, guides us to make tough decisions today, and inspires future generations to dream big. Thus, the Stars and Stripes will forever proudly fly over the land of the free and the home of the brave.

And that is just the way it is.

RECOGNIZING KYLE KRUTHOFF
FOR HIS 1A STATE TITLE IN
POLE VAULTING

HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 14, 2018

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Kyle Kruthoff, a junior from Erie High School, for earning the Class 1A title for the Illinois State Championship in pole vaulting.

Kyle Kruthoff cleared 15 feet, 6 inches to claim his title as state champion, and I would

like to recognize Kyle for his tremendous accomplishment. Kyle's dedication and passion for his sport meant that he was determined to win gold. As a former athlete, I understand the amount of hard work and commitment to be awarded such a title. Kyle is an example of the importance of dedication and a strong work ethic. I am proud there is such young talent in our community, and to see him represent Erie throughout the state.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to again formally congratulate Kyle Kruthoff on his title, and I join the rest of the community in wishing him every success in the future.

KEN WALLA RECOGNIZED FOR 35
YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE
LAMAR CONSOLIDATED INDE-
PENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 14, 2018

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ken Walla for his 35 years of service and dedication to the Lamar Consolidated Independent School District (CISD).

Ken has worked for the school district for thirty five years. He was recently recognized by Lamar CISD for his dedication to our children and our schools. His tenure and commitment to educational excellence is a true asset for our students and our region.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to Ken Walla on 35 years with Lamar CISD. I thank him for his commitment to education and to our kids.